



Director of
Central
Intelligence

BETTY

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National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
10 March 1982

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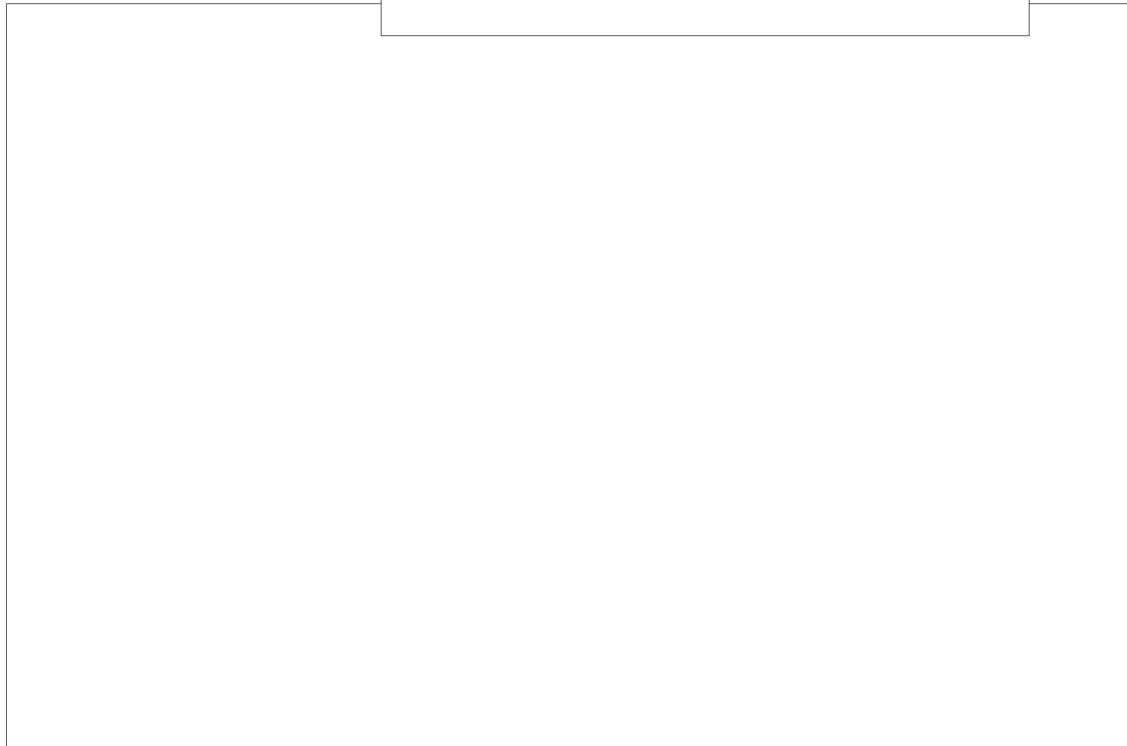


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Salvadoran Electoral Activity

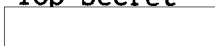
Four of the parties contesting the elections scheduled for 28 March have presented full slates of candidates for the constituent assembly in all of the country's

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14 departments. These parties include the cogoverning Christian Democrats and the two major rightist groupings, Roberto D'Aubuisson's ultraconservative National Republican Alliance and the National Conciliation Party. One other rightist party will field candidates in most departments, while another is on the ballot in more than half. []

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The Central Elections Council claims that the leftist but noninsurgent-affiliated Renewal Action Party did not make the deadline for registration of assembly candidates. Disputing this, the party head has charged the Council with fraud. The Christian Democrats also have asked the Council to reconsider. []

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Comment: The success of the parties in fielding complete slates gives voters definite choices and thus should enhance voter turnout. The parties' success also casts some doubt on the effectiveness of guerrilla efforts to inhibit political organizing in individual departments. []

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The Christian Democrats' request that the decision against the Renewal Action Party be reconsidered reflects their concern that exclusion of the only leftist party will reinforce insurgent claims that the elections are not representative and therefore not valid. The Christian Democrats probably also regard this party as their most likely supporter in any coalition. []

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Although labor has never been a major political force in Salvadoran elections, the coalition probably controls about 100,000 urban and rural workers. The military realizes that labor support for the elections will enhance the popular image of the process, increase voter turnout among the working classes, and preempt guerrilla appeals for a national strike on election day. []

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Pressure on the Christian Democrats(b)(1)
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Former Costa Rican President Oduber has proposed to US officials that a coalition of regional Christian and Social Democrats invite insurgent leftist spokesman Ungo to meet under its sponsorship with the new Salvadoran Government to discuss a cessation of hostilities. Oduber's proposal assumes a Christian Democratic victory.

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Comment:

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Oduber apparently wants Ungo to get the insurgents to stop fighting or admit that he does not control them. In the latter case, he would be under pressure to break with the rebels or lose his international support.

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Army Repels Insurgents

After bitter fighting on Monday, the Salvadoran Army drove insurgents from the departmental capital of San Miguel. The guerrillas also were driven off after attacking San Vicente, San Sebastian, and Santa Rosa de Lima.

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Comment: The Salvadoran military

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has

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taken appropriate defensive measures. Although the Army can prevent the insurgents from seizing and holding major population centers, the presence of a large international press contingent in El Salvador assures the guerrillas considerable propaganda for their actions.

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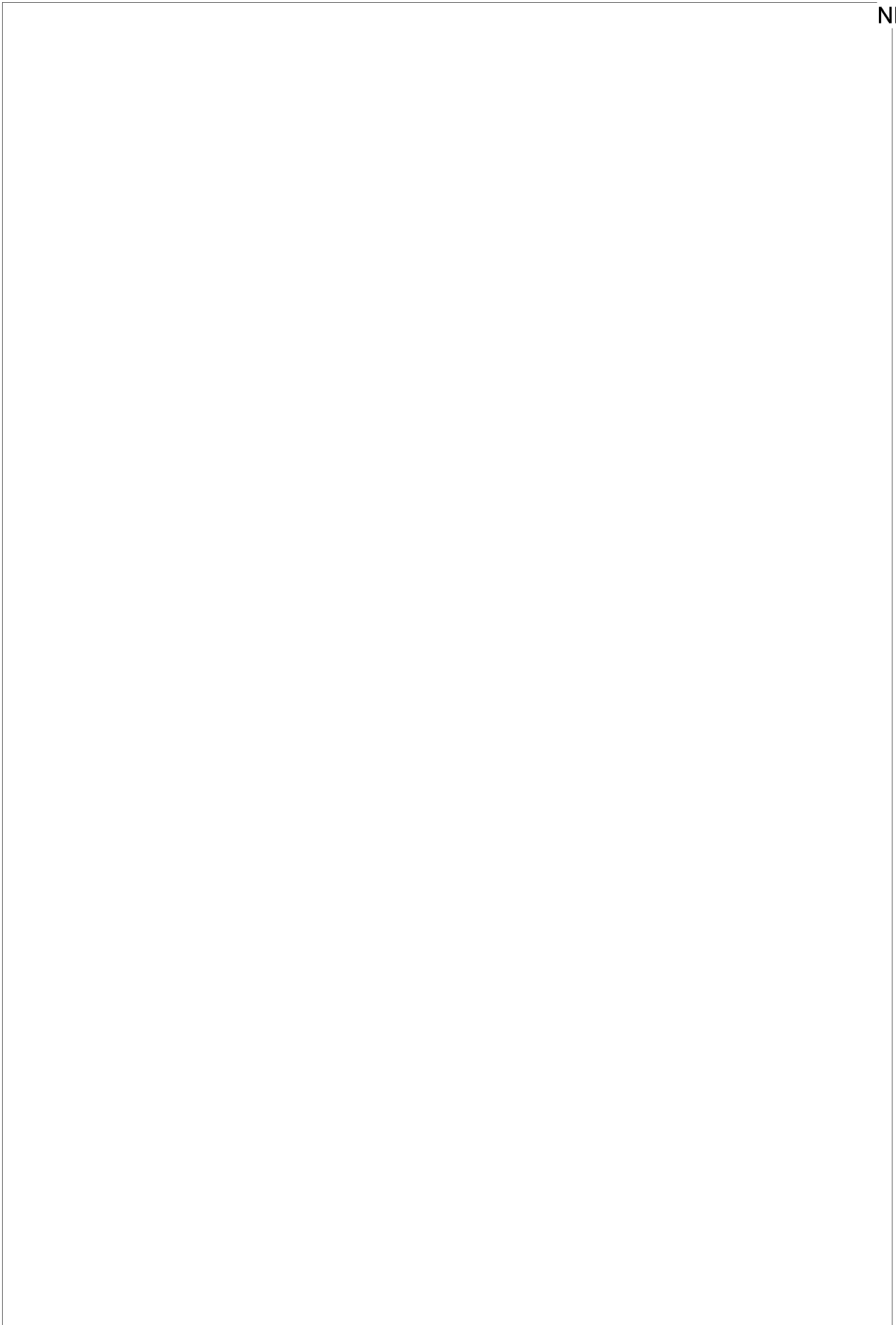
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